

Peer Exchange Questions on Asset Management SEMCOG

1. How is your organization using asset management in decision-making and resource allocation?

SEMCOG is attempting to use asset management concepts to help develop our long-range transportation plan. We have developed policy goals and objectives, identified deficiencies, and estimated available capital and operations funding for the next 25 years. Having a process to help decide the mix of improvements that will help us reach as many of our objectives as possible, consistent with the amount of funding we have available is what we are attempting to develop.

2. Benefits of using asset management

We believe that implementing an asset management process will help develop options for elected officials to consider when making decisions on capital programs. The analysis should be able to show them the long-term impacts of their current decisions and be one more piece of information for them to consider in decision-making.

We have begun collecting data on pavement conditions for all of the federal aid eligible roads in southeast Michigan consistent with the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council directive. We will begin to review this data to see if the regions pavements are showing improvement, if local agencies are making investments consistent with the data that has been collected, and if not why not.

3. Barriers to using Asset Management

There are a number of potential barriers to overcome including:

- What data to collect
- How to collect it
- What software to use
- What part of the system should be covered
- Who should do the ratings
- How will the data be reported

4. Are you using Asset Management for non-highway modes and how?

Not yet, but would like to integrate transit and non-motorized assets into data base eventually.

5. What improvements would you recommend in the implementation of Asset Management?

- a. Asset management theory should begin to be taught as part of engineering curricula.
- b. Especially need a way to communicate to small cities and counties
- c. Need more and better training opportunities, maybe one for DOT's, one for large counties and one aimed at smaller cities and counties
- d. Options – one size does not fit all
- e. Future research should include types of roads that should be included (i.e. gravel roads), is there some minimal amount of data that needs to be collected to be able to say something about the system.